

Camden Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2013

5:15 pm, Washington Street Conference Room

Present: Ray Andresen (chair), Pete Brown, Ed Libby, Brian Robinson, Beth Ward, Jim Heard (Select Board Liaison), Geoff Scott (Pathways Liaison). **Excused:** Pete Conover, Casey Leonard, David Olivas.

Ray Andresen opened the meeting at 5:17 pm.

Minutes: Pete Brown moved to accept the April 10, 2013 minutes as presented, Ed Libby the motion, and it passed 3-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Toboggan Championships: Nothing new to report.

Ragged Mountain Redevelopment: Beth Ward reported that the capital campaign drive “thermometer” has been placed on the Green and will be moved to other sites on a weekly basis. The fundraising committee is working on a phon-a-thon for early June. We’re still about \$700,000 short of the \$4.5 million goal for putting the bond vote onto the November ballot.

Pathways: Geoff Scott reported that May is bike awareness month and that an unofficial biking “social” club has formed to promote bike usage, safety and repairs. He also noted that the Pathways Committee has written a formal letter to T.Y. Lin in support of the Public Landing and Riverwalk planning project, and he suggested that the parks and Recreation Committee could do the same.

Public Landing/Riverwalk: There will be a work group meeting on May 28th, followed by another public meeting in June. Maintenance of a Riverwalk or improved Public Landing will be a key issue for the Parks and Recreation Department.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Proposed Budget: Beth reported that the Department is still looking at finishing the year about \$5,000 in the red. One new major expense: the pump on the groomer needs to be replaced; about 30% of the \$25,000 cost will be paid this fiscal year, the remainder after July 1. The Park-Rec budget for 2013/14 was approved by the Budget Committee; the separate Snow Bowl budget will go to the Select Board, probably in late June.

OLD BUSINESS

Sports Field: Beth reported that the field was rolled, aerated, seeded and top-graded last week. It will not be mowed until June. Little League softball has been allowed to play on the infield, but all other leagues have been advised to make other arrangements until the field has “healed.” Beth has had conversations with the heads of adult softball, lacrosse and Five-Town football. Lacrosse lost use of the field this spring and went to Hope. Five Town football would like to start using the field at the end of August. Brian Robinson suggested we don’t host the Harvest Bowl this year, and the Committee agreed. Beth and Fitzy have started putting together a “field use policy” and she will have a draft prepared for the next meeting. She also will have a “contributions letter” prepared for review at the June meeting.

Park-Rec Tour: Ed Libby will select a date and time in July for a driving tour and inspection of the various Park-Rec properties.

Park-Rec Signs: Fitzy has routed three new signs for the following Park-Rec properties: Bay Road Overlook, the Mount Battie Trail Entrance on Megunticook Street, and the Maiden Cliff Trail Entrance on Route 52. Ed also suggested we get a new sign for the Curtis Island Overlook on Bay View Street.

NEW BUSINESS

Comprehensive Plan: Ray distributed copies of proposed changes to Chapter 15, Page 11 (Ragged Mountain Recreation Area), which were revised and approved by the Committee. Ray will forward these changes to Jean White, who is heading up the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.

Senior Programs: Pete Brown reported on a park-rec program in Silver City, New Mexico, where people volunteer to teach classes on basket weaving, etc. for seniors, and he suggested that Camden could develop the same type of programming to be held at the library, middle school, or the Snow Bowl.

Beer and Wine Challenge: Beth reported that the Rotary was pleased with the event, which drew about 150 people to the Snow Bowl Lodge on _____.

Bookings: Beth also reported that there have been lots of weddings booked for the Snow Bowl Lodge this summer and that there has been no feedback on the fee increase.

Upcoming Events: The Run-For-Your-Life event sponsored by the Fire Department and EMS to drum up interest for volunteering will be held on May 25th; the Ragged Mountain Run-Around will be held on June 23rd; the Megunticook Canoe Race will be held on June 30th; the Wednesday-in-the-Park summer programs will begin on July 3rd; and the circus will be returning to the Snow Bowl on July 13th and 14th with two shows each day for a total rental fee of \$1,500. Beth also reported that the Obstacle Race has been moved to CVolumbus Day Weekend.

Ed Libby moved to adjourn, Pete Brown seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0 at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 5:15pm in the WSCR.

Minutes recorded by Ray Andresen